

Math π ath 2026

PRE-CAMP BRIEFING

(last updated 6/12/2026)

Dear students enrolled in MathPath 2026 and parents/guardians of the students:

This Pre-Camp Briefing describes what you need to know to prepare for daily life at MathPath 2026 at University of Portland (UP).

The times given in this briefing are in Pacific Daylight Time (PDT) in the USA.

The MathPath 2026 opening session will take place on Monday, June 29, tentatively at 8:30am.

Monday, June 29 is Orientation Day. The opening session has several components that may be of interest to the families of our students. In-person visitors are invited to this session, pending seating availability. We ask that any non-MathPath students/staff sit in the designated areas (back/wings) of the auditorium or stand. We will attempt to provide a live-stream option for those unable to make it in-person. Orientation morning includes:

- Welcome, including information on the philosophy of MathPath
- Introduction of all the instructors and staff present
- Question and Answer opportunity about the organization and schedule
- Kick-off Plenary (the first mathematics presentation to all students)
- Tour of the academic facilities we will use
- The first Problem of the Day (PoD)

We plan to provide a Remote Orientation for parents/guardians at some time in June. Details will be emailed to the families of registered students.

Revisions of this briefing may be made from time to time; check the “last updated” date on the top of this page. Accepted students and their families will be informed promptly of significant changes via email.

We look forward to meeting you.

Sincerely,
The MathPath Staff

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- I. [Travel](#)
 - Arrival by Air
 - Arrival by Train/Bus
 - Departure by Air/Train/Bus
- II. [Check-In](#)
- III. [Room and Board](#)
- IV. [What to Bring and What NOT to Bring](#)
 - Packing List
 - Security Deposit & Spending Money
 - Electronics Information
- V. [Communication](#)
 - Contacting MathPath
 - Contacting Individual Students
 - Sending Mail to Students
- VI. [Visiting MathPath](#)
- VII. [Daily Life](#)
 - Academics
 - Activities
- VIII. [Preparing for the Independence of MathPath](#)
- IX. [Safety Protocol](#)
- X. [Health and Well-Being Protocol](#)

I. TRAVEL TO & FROM MATHPATH

Please see <https://www.mathpath.org/2026/gettingthere>. It provides specific date and time windows during which MathPathers are to arrive and depart, including airport and train/bus station details. The arrival and departure windows **are not optional**, especially the dates.

Arriving/Departing by Car

Arrival and departure windows for those driving to campus are posted on our website. Any family intending to arrive to or depart from campus on their own are considered to be arriving “by car”, including those flying to Portland and renting a car/rideshare, using a rideshare service, or using public transportation.

Detailed instructions for arriving to campus will be posted on our website and/or emailed to registered families prior to Arrivals Day.

MathPath Welcome Party for Air Arrivals

There will be counselors and/or MathPath staff members at the arrival gate areas inside security. One of them will meet every student at their gate area upon arrival. Members of the welcome party will be wearing MathPath T-shirts in varied colors. (A MathPath T-shirt is a solid-colored T-shirt with the MathPath logo – M with a shadow of π – on the upper right corner of the front, and a large design on the back – see image to the right) Arriving MathPathers should locate an adult wearing a MathPath T-shirt and introduce themselves immediately after deplaning. If no such adult is immediately visible to an arriving MathPather, they should **stay in their gate area** until a MathPath adult arrives. To facilitate recognition, we ask **all arriving MathPathers** to tie/wear a **red bandana** around their wrist, neck, head, or hair as they leave the plane.



Unaccompanied Minors (UMs) will be handed over by airline staff directly to a designated receiver in the Welcome Party. The names and phone numbers of these designated receivers will be communicated to parents/guardians who have informed MathPath of UM status before June 15. This information will be required by the airline on the UM contract. *If UM service is purchased for a return trip in advance, be sure to **get a receipt for both trips** and give us the receipt on arrival at UP (or email it earlier).*

Do not worry if a flight is delayed or early. We will have current flight information for all students traveling by air (because all information will have been submitted to us in advance) and we will be monitoring any changes.

If a MathPath adult has not met a student within 5 minutes of their getting off the plane, that student should call the MathPath number **610-616-3211**, and then follow the instructions they are given by a MathPath staff member. As a precaution, all arriving students should have this

number programmed into their phone and easily accessible as they leave the plane. In some cases, several planes may be landing at once and the receivers may be temporarily busy at another gate.

Students: *If there is no one to greet you immediately, DO NOT LEAVE YOUR GATE AREA unless instructed to do so by a MathPath staff member.*

The Welcome Party in the airport will assist arriving MathPath students with their baggage claim and navigation through the airport. Students will be transported from the airport to the campus by MathPath shuttles. Students should be prepared to wait in the airport for up to 120 minutes under the supervision of a counselor, awaiting an available MathPath Shuttle. The Welcome Party will provide some small games, but students may bring their own (easily accessible in their luggage), to pass time waiting in the airport.

All MathPathers arriving by air will be asked to call home from the airport on their cell phones immediately after the Welcome Party meets them. (Parents/guardians of international students will be informed by email or telephone after arrival to campus, if not sooner.)

MathPath Welcome Party for Train/Bus Arrivals

The system is very similar to that at the airport, but there are fewer official security measures.

There will be a counselor or other MathPath staff member to meet every student at their station platform/stop upon arrival. Members of the Welcome Party will be wearing MathPath T-shirts in varied colors. (A MathPath T-shirt is a solid-colored T-shirt with the MathPath logo – M with a shadow of π – on the upper right corner of the front, and a large design on the back – see image to the right.) Arriving MathPathers should locate an adult wearing a MathPath T-shirt and introduce themselves immediately upon arrival. If no such adult is immediately visible to an arriving MathPather, they should stay in the platform area until a MathPath adult arrives. To facilitate recognition we ask **all arriving MathPathers** to tie a **red bandana** around their wrist, neck, head, or hair as they leave the train/bus.



Do not worry if an arrival is delayed or early. We will have current travel information for all students and we will be monitoring any changes.

If a MathPath adult has not met a student within 5 minutes of arrival, that student should call the MathPath number (610-616-3211) and then follow instructions. Students: *If there is no one to greet you immediately, DO NOT LEAVE THE PLATFORM AREA unless instructed to do so by a MathPath staff member.*

The Welcome Party will assist arriving MathPath students with bag claim and navigation through the station. Students will be transported from the station to the campus by MathPath shuttles.

Departures from MathPath by Air/Train/Bus

Students will be taken to the station or airport, assisted with baggage check-in, and taken to the boarding gate by MathPath staff. Those designated as UMs will be handed over to the airline at the departure gate counter, as per airline protocol; or handed over to the Train/Bus staff, as per their respective protocols.

To facilitate departures, many students will leave for the station or airport together in a bus or large van. Since the bus or van must leave early enough for the person with the first departure to make their boarding time, **please expect that students may have a longer-than-usual wait (several hours) at the airport prior to departure.** To minimize wait, book an earlier trip when possible. Students will never be unattended while waiting in the airport.

MathPath Staff will contact parents/guardians if any complications arise. If you do not receive a call from us, it means all is well.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

Students should keep their boarding pass or ticket, personal ID, and any UM receipts, safely in an easily reachable place (such as the zippered side of a carry-on bag, or a travel-document pouch)! MathPath Staff will collect important documents for safe-keeping upon check-in (UM paperwork, passports, IDs, etc), and return these documents to students during their check-out.

US Immigration

Many students living outside the US who are not US citizens will need a visa to enter the US, depending on their citizenship status. MathPath will provide extra information to these families upon request, including supporting documentation for the visa application process and for Customs. Please read any documentation you are sent very carefully and follow any necessary steps.

[Return to Contents](#)

II. CHECK-IN

Check-in instructions will be provided in a later update. Our residence hall is Mehling Hall; see the campus map:

<https://www.up.edu/admissions/files/campus-map.pdf>

Students/families will find a member of the MathPath senior staff available at the check-in desk to officially check a student into the program.

Materials needed for check-in:

- Cash/check(s) for spending money and security deposit; pre-paid cards or credit/debit cards (see section IV)
- Any updated versions of any registration forms
- Important documents to be held by MathPath Staff for safe-keeping (i.e. passport, ID, UM documents, etc)
- Medication to be held and/or administered by MathPath Staff (including extra supplies such as inhalers/epi-pens/etc);

All medication must be in the **ORIGINAL CONTAINERS**

All prescription medication must have the **ORIGINAL PRESCRIPTION LABEL**

Medication that will be held/administered by MathPath Staff **MUST BE**

SURRENDERED AT CHECK-IN

- Any medication that is not in its original container or properly stored will be confiscated and disposed of immediately, including medication that has expired
 - All medication that is brought to MathPath **must** be documented on the student's Health Form (regardless of whether or not it is to be held/administered by MathPath Staff)
- Cell phones/smart devices (or other declared electronics with internet/calling capability) *and their chargers* **MUST BE SURRENDERED AT CHECK-IN.**

These devices and their chargers should be clearly labeled with the student's name.

- Students who arrive as unaccompanied minors will be asked to call home prior to surrendering their devices to inform their families of a safe arrival at MathPath.
 - Simple, single-purpose electronics (i.e. basic e-reader or mp3 player) will not need to be surrendered.
 - Any smart device (or other electronic device with internet/calling capability) that is *not* surrendered at check-in will be confiscated for the remainder of MathPath upon its discovery in a student's possession.

Students will receive the following at check-in:

- Lanyard with nametag
- Room Key
- Swipe Card (provides access to residence hall & meals)

MathPath counselors and staff will then assist students to their rooms. MathPath counselors & staff will help students settle into their rooms as requested. MathPath staff can help with unpacking and making beds, etc (but students should also be prepared to complete these tasks on their own if necessary).

Parents/guardians/guests are not allowed to enter the residence halls. Public restrooms are unlikely to be available – please take this into consideration prior to arrival. For more information, see the section pertaining to off-campus visits and visitors.

[Return to Contents](#)

III. ROOM AND BOARD

Lodging. MathPath will have sole use* of one residence hall building – Mehling Hall. Students will be housed on separate wings or floors by gender. Students are intentionally assigned to single-occupancy rooms. Our experience indicates that the calm of a private room leads to better rest after intense days of mathematical and recreational activity. Students may not request roommates or counselor group assignments.

*University of Portland has 1 residential staff member living full time in each residence hall. This person will be in their own private residence and will not have contact with any MathPath community member.

Meals. Students will eat all meals in the on-campus dining hall. Students will not be permitted to skip meals, and students will be escorted to and from every meal by a counselor or other staff member. College dining halls are used to accommodating dietary restrictions. *All special dietary needs must be indicated on the health form.* We will provide this information to the on-campus dining service. In the case of extreme food/dietary restrictions, please complete the health form as soon as possible.

[Return to Contents](#)

IV. WHAT TO BRING AND WHAT NOT TO BRING

Write the student's name on as many items as possible.

Things get lost and misplaced at camp. Write or permanently affix the student's name/initials on every item you can before arriving at MathPath, including clothing, school supplies, cell phone, wallet, purse, backpack, water bottle, tennis racket, shoes, writing utensils, etc. Use a permanent marker that will not wash or rub off; etch onto hard surfaces (such as calculator/phone/etc); or use extremely sticky/permanent labels. (Note that labels may fall off where etching will not.)

Along with the specific recommendations below, families should keep the following general guidelines in mind. Research the typical weather conditions at our location, and keep in mind that students will often be outside (walking from place to place, or on outings). Some classrooms may be air-conditioned but our residence hall will *not* be. Fortunately, the weather in the Pacific Northwest is usually fairly mild in the summer, and nights usually cool down significantly. **We will provide 1 box fan for each student room.**

Students may need a recent school or government-issued ID for air/plane/bus travel to and from MathPath.

WHAT TO BRING

CLOTHES/OUTERWEAR – Adjust the recommendations below depending on the typical clothing use of each student. Students at MathPath are expected to do their laundry weekly with the assistance of their counselor.

- _____ 8 pairs of socks
- _____ 9 sets of undergarments (underwear / bra if applicable)
- _____ 8 shirts or T-shirts
- _____ 3-4 pairs of shorts; 1-2 pairs of long pants
- _____ 2-3 sets of “athletic” clothing, if different from day-to-day clothing, for activity time
- _____ pajamas/sleepwear (to last a week)
- _____ 1 lightweight rain jacket, with hood if available (water repellent/resistant)
- _____ 1 warm sweater/sweatshirt for cool summer nights
- _____ 1 hat or sun visor
- _____ 1 pair of comfortable shoes/sneakers for daily use around campus
- _____ 1 pair of good quality walking/hiking shoes
- _____ 1 pair of flip-flops/sandals, for bathroom use or for use around campus
- _____ swimsuit; beach towel
- _____ optional: clothing hangers, if hanging clothes in closet
- _____ optional: washable/reusable cloth masks (at least 3 layers of fabric per mask) OR
single-use surgical masks OR multi-use disposable particle masks (KN95/FFP2/etc)

TOILETRIES – The list below is minimal; supplement with other items used in a typical week.

- _____ Body soap (plus soap dish if needed)
- _____ Shampoo/conditioner – pack liquids in zip-lock plastic bag
- _____ Toothbrush, toothpaste, floss (plastic cup optional)
- _____ Deodorant, comb/hairbrush, nail clipper
- _____ Feminine hygiene products sufficient for 2 cycles (as applicable)
- _____ optional: personal hand sanitizer supply for 1 month

SCHOOL SUPPLIES – During the month, students should expect to use a fair amount of paper and receive many handouts, since they attend three plenary talks per day and participate in a total of eight breakout courses, two per week. We suggest the following to keep everything organized.

- _____ The equivalent of 200-300 sheets of paper, whether in the form of loose leaf or notebooks
- _____ Binders or folders to keep plenary notes, materials for breakout courses, and other miscellaneous documents (sheet protectors optional)
- _____ A minimum of: 3 pens, 12 pencils, 3 erasers, extra lead and/or pencil sharpener(s)
- _____ A clipboard or other portable hard-backed device for writing on (the regular lecture hall theater at UP does not have writing desks attached to the chairs)

OTHER NECESSARY ITEMS

- _____ **2 refillable water bottles** (we request you to pack **two** rather than one – this is *essential*)
DO NOT USE THESE FOR NON-WATER
- _____ Small alarm clock or alarm watch – you won't be able to use the alarm on your phone
- _____ Cell phone and charger (see below)
- _____ Inexpensive sunglasses
- _____ Sunscreen lotion, insect repellent (pack liquids in a zip-lock bag)
- _____ Laundry bag (recommend large one with pull string and made of nylon net)

RECREATION (optional depending on your interests)

- _____ Running shoes or cross trainers (group runs, tennis, basketball, etc)
- _____ Hiking boots
- _____ Soccer shoes/cleats and shin guards
- _____ Tennis racket, softball/baseball mitt, table tennis paddles, or other sports equipment
- _____ Board games, chess sets, puzzles, Rubik's Cubes (many MathPathers love mental puzzles and games, want to share them, or arrange competitions)
- _____ Musical instruments, related equipment (including sheet music/folding stand) – we expect at least one piano will be available for those who wish to practice

OPTIONAL OTHER ITEMS (including electronics – all optional)

- _____ Camera, since you will NOT be able to use your phone as a camera
- _____ Scientific calculator (Some breakout courses use basic calculators, such as spherical trigonometry, but you can manage without one. MathPath is not responsible if you lose it, so better to bring an inexpensive scientific calculator. DO NOT BRING a graphing, CAS, or other high-powered calculator.)
- _____ Simple compass, straightedge/ruler and protractor

- _____ Basic music player, if you wish to listen to music alone in your room. You will need to bring a device that does not play video or have access to games or apps, such as an iPod-Shuffle. (see section about electronics)
- _____ Basic eReader that does not play video or have access to games or apps, such as a Kindle Paperwhite or other basic Kindle. (see section about electronics)
- _____ Low-internet access eWriting tablet that does not play video or have access to games or apps, such as Kindle Scribe or Remarkable. (see section about electronics)

Recreational Activities. We have several sports traditions at MathPath. One is regular soccer games, sometimes including a tournament. Another is jogging, often early in the morning, led by a counselor or staff member. Table tennis, which is taken pretty seriously, often involves a big tournament towards the end of the program. We may also hold a chess tournament. Want to learn Pickleball? Equipment/instruction will be available! We have lots of game traditions; so please bring sports equipment/games that you are willing to share with other MathPath students! Feel free to bring games and/or equipment for other activities you enjoy!

Bedding and Linens. UP will provide (on loan) a full set of basic linens for each student and provide a linen exchange after each week (three exchanges during the month). Included in each set will be a bottom sheet, a top sheet, a pillowcase, one bath towel, one hand towel, and one washcloth. UP will provide (on loan) a pillow and lightweight blanket for each student. If you like to be really warm while you sleep, you can bring a heavier blanket/comforter, or we may be able to get a second lightweight blanket for you on loan from UP.

Laundry. The list of clothing above is intended to be enough for a little more than a week. Counselors will help students to do laundry once a week (three total times). Free-and-clear laundry detergent for 3 rounds of laundry will be provided free of charge by MathPath, and there is no additional cost to run the laundry machines. Please do not arrive with a suitcase full of dirty laundry. Please do not expect to go home with a suitcase full of clean laundry. If you have special dermatological needs with regards to detergent (more particular than free-and-clear), please inform Camp Director April Verser by email at april.verser@mathpath.org prior to June 15, 2026 or supply your own detergent.

Cell Phones. Every student attending MathPath should bring a mobile phone and charger with which they are familiar (and that work in the United States) for use while traveling to and from MathPath and for communicating with families throughout the month. However, to promote community and encourage activity, we do not allow students to have their cell phones except for the daily call home. At all other times, counselors collect and safely store the phones. (See section regarding electronics for more information.) MathPath recommends a non-smart phone, when possible.

Please put some indelible identifying information on the cell phone exterior (using a permanent marker, etching tools, or a label with extremely strong adhesive), and make sure that identifying information can also be found on the background and lock screens.

Medications. All medications, including over-the-counter medications, need to be packed **in their original container**. Prescription medication must have its original pharmacy label on the package, including the student's name, the dosage, and the expiration date. Medication *not* in an original container will be confiscated and disposed of.

PACKING

We advise that you check one bag and board your flight with one carry-on item. The best way to accomplish this is to pack little to nothing beyond what is listed above. Remember, many items cannot be carried onto the airplane cabin in a carry-on; for instance, liquids in containers over 3 ounces. For more information, visit

<http://www.tsa.gov/traveler-information/prohibited-items>

SPENDING MONEY AND SECURITY DEPOSIT

SECURITY DEPOSIT: \$200 USD

Please provide the security deposit in the form of a separate check. If no portion of the security deposit is used, the check will be returned to your MathPather upon checkout. If you are unable to provide a check, include an extra \$200 cash (or Zelle) with the spending money, or provide a money order.

Every year a few MathPathers incur an extra charge from our host, usually due to lost room keys but occasionally for property damage repairs. We ask families to provide a deposit against such charges. Any unused portion of the deposit will be returned at the end of the program along with any unused spending money. Any charges incurred by the MathPather will be reported to the student and the family of the MathPather.

A lost or damaged key will incur a \$150 charge; a replacement access card will incur a \$20 charge per card. Lost/damaged items from the residence hall (including linens) will incur a charge. Fees/charges incurred by the student in excess of the \$200 deposit will be deducted from the student's spending money account. Fees/charges incurred in excess of the balance of the spending money account will be billed to the family accordingly.

RECOMMENDED SPENDING MONEY: \$350 USD FOR 4 WEEKS

For the following approximate expected expenses:

1. \$175 for various weekend activities, such as bike rides or bowling
2. \$50 for incidental expenses on the round-trip between home and MathPath

3. \$125 as a cash reserve for occasional purchases (a souvenir during a trip, drinks/snacks, forgotten items, etc)

Spending money may be provided at check-in in the form of cash, Zelle, or a check; or spending money may be transferred (in advance) via Zelle to the email address deposits@mathpath.org or via the QR code.



Need-based financial assistance may be available for weekend activities and incidental spending money. Families should contact Director Verser at april.verser@mathpath.org for information.



Spending money will be safeguarded by the MathPath Financial Director, who runs a student “bank”. At check-in, students deposit all money (cash, check, and/or bank/prepaid cards) they don’t need immediately. Students will have access to this account a couple of times a week, particularly before trips to interesting destinations where students may wish to purchase items. Students should carry no more than \$10-20 on their person on a regular basis.

Students will choose to attend different weekend activities that may have different costs. These costs will be automatically deducted from the student’s account each week. Money remaining in the account at the end of the program will be returned to the student, in cash or check depending on the amount.

Access to this account gives many students more independence in spending money than they have had before. Before leaving, please discuss your expectations for fiscal responsibility with your MathPather. We have divided the spending money into categories intentionally for MathPath students to better understand how to budget their money.

BANK CARDS or PREPAID CARDS

You may provide a bank card (i.e. credit or debit card) or a prepaid card for your MathPather. We **do not recommend** that a student use this for their regular spending money, as these items can easily be lost. Students can “check out” their bank card from the bank prior to weekend trips, and will be expected to return their cards on the following Tuesday. MathPath will not be responsible for any lost bank or prepaid cards.

There may be field trip locations that require only card or contactless payments. In these cases, there will usually be kiosks available to convert cash into a prepaid card, so a bank or prepaid card provided in advance of the trip is not usually necessary (but you or your MathPather may find it more convenient to use their own).

WHAT NOT TO BRING

Do not bring any expensive items you do not absolutely need; the chance of losing them is too great, especially if they are small. You and your family will be responsible for any loss. **Do not bring items of high monetary or irreplaceable sentimental value.**

Recreational electronic devices other than cell phones are not permitted without pre-authorization, and are strongly discouraged. (We recommend books, puzzles/magazines, phone apps, or other non-electronic means to pass the time on flights.) We consider it a disciplinary matter if a student is found to be playing electronic games (including on a calculator) during MathPath. For details, including what you must report and request pre-authorization for, see our *Personal Electronics Agreement Form*.

Graphing, CAS, or other high-powered calculators are not permitted at MathPath.

Computers. MathPath has a portable computer lab that will be available for students to use during select free times for homework, classwork, and email. We therefore will NOT allow students to keep personal computers in their possession beyond exceptional circumstances, such as to help with a disability. If a student plans to bring a computer for some special reason, it must first be authorized by the Camp Director April Verser, and the *Personal Electronics Agreement Form* must be completed, listing the personal computer.

Weapons, Lighters, Matches. Students must NOT bring any weapons of any kind, nor items that could be construed as weapons, including pocket knives or swiss-army tools. Martial arts items (such as nunchucks or ninja stars) are also not permitted. Objects that produce or involve sparks or flame (such as fireworks, lighters, matches, candles) are not permitted.

Cooking Devices. Students must not bring any electric cooking devices (such as microwaves, hot plates, etc). Depending on the facilities, students may have supervised access to small kitchenettes with microwaves in the residence halls.

Controlled Substances. If bringing any medicine (including over-the-counter items), students must declare it on the appropriate health forms. All medication (including over-the-counter items) **must be in the original container**. Any medication not in the original container will be treated as a controlled substance and disposed of immediately. All other controlled substances are strictly banned (including cigarettes, vapes, e-cigarettes, alcohol, etc).

RECREATION AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Electronic devices for any non-educational purpose (aside from communicating with family) are *strictly prohibited*. For clear understanding of our Recreation Philosophy, please see our website: <https://www.mathpath.org/recreation>. Details about our electronics policies can be found on our *Personal Electronics Agreement Form*.

[Return to Contents](#)

V. COMMUNICATION

CONTACTING MATHPATH

April Verser, Camp Director

Phone: 610-616-3211

Email: april.verser@mathpath.org

MathPath Student Life Team

Phone: 610-616-3211

Email: mathpath2026@mathpath.org

The above email address will not be valid until shortly before MathPath starts. Families of enrolled students will be notified when they should begin using the above email address.

Questions and concerns about students should be first attempted to be resolved with the student directly, and then should be voiced to the MathPath Student Life Team (which consists of the Camp Director – April Verser, the Student Experience Communication Specialist – Denise Parnell, the Assistant Camp Director – Katie Ash, the Student Life Director – Julie Vega, and the Assistant Student Life Director – Katharine Adamyk).

Any extremely sensitive concerns about students may be voiced to April (the Camp Director), and she will forward concerns to others if necessary.

Please refrain from calling the MathPath number to leave messages for individual students, unless in an emergency, or if you are unable to reach the student directly after several tries for at least two days.

The MathPath phone line is an electronic number that is not usually answered immediately. Email is the preferred method of communication. If you must call, please leave a voicemail. Staff will review voice messages regularly throughout the working day.

In case of an emergency or urgent situation on campus, please trust MathPath staff to respond accordingly, prioritizing the health and safety of students. When it is appropriate and safe, MathPath Senior Staff will reach out to families to provide updates on such situations.

In case of an urgent situation (such as a family emergency) that you wish to alert MathPath to, please leave a voicemail on the MathPath phone line *and* send an email to the Student Life Team.

CONTACTING INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS

Calling Home. The best time to reach your MathPather is usually between 8:50-9:05pm PDT. Lights out is promptly at 9:30pm. Students will need to use the time between 9:05-9:30pm to get ready for bed; **do not expect phone calls to be able to last longer than 15 minutes.** Do not

phone at other times without special arrangements; counselors will have possession of student phones at all other times. Counselors will remind students to contact home every day in the first week, less frequently thereafter. Please discuss your family's expectations for staying in contact before your MathPather leaves home.

Some evenings (such as the fourth of July), the phone call may happen at a different time due to program activities.

For families who are not in the US, or for whom this phone call will come at an inconvenient time (such as families on the East Coast), we can arrange a different call time, probably during or after dinner. Your student will communicate the arrangements directly with you after conferring with their counselor and April Verser, Camp Director.

Email. MathPath owns a mobile Chromebook lab, which will be available a couple of times a week for students to check email. Students using the lab for communication with home will have priority use.

Homesickness. We keep an eye out and support students where we see a need. Experience has shown that the busy days and evenings filled with math, activities, and new friends, combined with the observant, supportive, and well-trained staff at MathPath usually help counteract any homesickness within a few days.

Note that excessive communication with the family often contributes to *more* homesickness. Please keep your telephone calls brief and try not to remind students of things they are "missing" at home (i.e. favorite foods/pets/activities).

Video calls, while fun to get to "see" what everyone is doing, can actually *increase* homesickness as students have both audio and visual cues as to what they are missing. Brief, audio-only calls that focus on what the MathPather is learning, doing, and engaging with at MathPath (without judgment) are best to stay in touch and stave off homesickness.

SENDING MAIL TO STUDENTS

Address all letters and packages, whether sent by US Mail or package services (including Amazon), to:

RECIPIENT NAME
MathPath
University of Portland
5000 N. Willamette Blvd
Portland, OR 97203

It is essential to include "MathPath" in the addressee field, or it is unlikely that the mailroom will be able to ensure delivery to us.

No Weekend Delivery. Like most colleges, the UP mailroom is not open on weekends and closes early on Fridays. No mail, including no express, no overnight, no UPS and no FedEx, will reach us at the above address on July 4 or Saturdays or Sundays, even if you pay for special weekend/holiday delivery. The UP mailroom will have *limited hours* on Fridays. Due to MathPath being off campus on Mondays, it is possible that we may be unable to receive mail from Friday noon through Tuesday morning. *Therefore, if you want to be sure something gets to us or your student over the weekend, you MUST plan for delivery for the previous Thursday at the latest.*

USPS, UPS, and FedEx are the preferred mail carriers. Overnight, expedited, or Amazon shipments that arrive outside of the business hours listed below may go unreceived – please schedule deliveries during these windows whenever possible.

If you order something from Amazon, please indicate in the preferences that deliveries can only be accepted during business hours:

Monday-Thursday: 8am-12pm, 1-4pm

Friday: 8am-12pm

Saturday-Sunday: CLOSED – no deliveries accepted

Similarly, note that mail is not delivered directly to our organization; rather, we must pick it up from the college mail room, which has limited summer hours. We typically pick up the mail once per day, so please do not be concerned if items do not reach students until the mail-room business day after they are reported to you as “delivered” by the courier.

If you are mailing something special, urgent, or time-sensitive, we advise you to contact the MathPath Student Life Team, in advance of its mailing, via email at mathpath2026@mathpath.org.

Emergencies. We may be able to make special arrangements to ensure arrival of emergency mailings (such as medications) via a local mailing service or office location, but you **MUST** contact the MathPath Student Life Team via email at mathpath2026@mathpath.org prior to sending, and mail as instructed.

Suggested last postmark dates for student mail:

Regular domestic mail –July 20

Domestic Priority –July 21

Domestic Overnight Express Mail –July 24

Regular mail from Canada – July 15

Regular mail from other countries – July 8

Courier (FedEx, DHL, etc.):

Overnight domestic or Canada courier – July 22

Express courier from other countries – July 21

What if I forget something? If a student forgets an essential item, or simply wants something that is easily purchasable from a big-box store, convenience store, grocery store, department store, etc, they may place orders approximately 1-2 times a week through their counselor. MathPath staff will make shopping trips 1-2 times a week, during which purchases can be made if the items are available. The cost of these items is deducted from the student's spending account upon delivery of the items. MathPath can also place a large Amazon order approximately once per week, where the cost of the item is deducted from the student's spending account (and there will not be a delivery charge associated with these purchases).

(Examples of items that can be purchased in this manner include toiletries, snacks/beverages, school supplies, small-ticket novelties, etc.)

OTHER DELIVERY SERVICES

DO NOT USE delivery services such as DoorDash, Uber, Wal-mart, Temu, etc. to place orders for items for students. We will have no way to be in contact with these services, which makes ensuring timely and successful delivery nearly impossible. We do not permit students to use these services as they would have contact with someone who is not a preauthorized adult member of our community.

[Return to Contents](#)

VI. VISITING MATHPATH

Persons not affiliated with MathPath or University of Portland will not be permitted to enter any of the indoor spaces that MathPath is using, with the only exceptions being MathPath Orientation and the Closing Ceremony.

MathPath Orientation happens on the morning of Monday, June 29. Family members will be welcome to attend until we dismiss the session for lunch. More details will be shared with families closer to the time of the event. The Closing Ceremony includes the awarding of certificates to all students completing the program and the following variety show. This event will take place in the evening of Saturday, July 25, and more details will be shared with families closer to the time of the event.

To support the development of the residential community, students are not permitted to leave campus with a non-MathPath adult except in the case of an emergency, or at the end of the program.

Parents/guardians often wish to stay several days at the beginning of the program. However, we discourage this. Families may wonder if they can help fend off homesickness by visiting; however, frequent visits tend to remind the student more often of what they are missing, causing the homesickness to increase.

We find that the mathematical environment and, most importantly, the opportunities to mingle with other students who are also mathematically gifted quickly engages them with their new environment. Students form strong relationships with their intellectual peers at MathPath, and we feel strongly that excessive visiting can erode the value of these interactions. The community built at MathPath is essential to the experience, thus we allow only a limited number and limited length of visits from non-MathPath persons.

Protocol for Visits during the MathPath session. Persons listed on the Off-Campus Permission Form can request to visit your child during MathPath. These visits must occur in a space that is authorized by MathPath and is publicly accessible (such as **outside**) and must be within the sight of a MathPath staff member (as MathPath will maintain the responsibility of guardianship until the student checks out of MathPath).

Each such request must be made at least **48 hours in advance and must be approved**. Approval is never given (except in emergencies) to visit during any essential academic or social activity at MathPath. In particular, Saturday is an academic day at MathPath; *do not ask to visit a student before 5:30pm on Saturdays*. It is best to limit requests to 1-2 hours, such as shortly after dinner on Friday or Saturday night.

The request must be made to April Verser, Camp Director, & Denise Parnell, Student Experience Communications Specialist, via email at mathpath2026@mathpath.org, and april.verser@mathpath.org must be carbon-copied.

Once permission/authorization for the visit has been granted, when you come to campus, you must meet the designated MathPath Staff representative in person (this person will have been communicated to you in advance). You will be asked to present photo ID to verify identify. Any people designated on the Student Handover Permission Form must follow the same protocol as described. It is your responsibility (as the parent/guardian of the student) to inform those persons of this protocol.

[Return to Contents](#)

VII. DAILY LIFE

ACADEMICS

The approximate daily schedule for our academic week, which runs Tues–Sat, is shown at <http://www.mathpath.org/life/amathpathday/weekdays>

Attendance at all academic sessions is *required*. Many of the best high school age summer math programs run like colleges and do not check attendance. But with our age group, 11-14, we ensure students are always supervised, which means they must always go to class.

Each week, students submit their course preferences after a description of each course is given at “Show and Tell”. Popular courses often require a lottery to keep our class sizes balanced, and there are no guarantees for students to get any given choice. We will encourage students to make their own decisions about which breakouts they should attend. Students won’t have full and up-to-date information until they attend Show and Tell, and then it is their choice how to rank the breakout choices.

We will not entertain requests from parents/guardians to enroll or switch students in breakouts. While we provide a draft catalog and schedule for breakouts in advance, this is mainly so that students can look at the information themselves and begin to get excited/interested about what they might do at MathPath. We strongly discourage parents/guardians from discussing the breakout options with their MathPathers in advance – and we especially discourage advising MathPathers which breakouts to take.

Show and Tell provides a great opportunity for MathPathers to think critically about what they find most interesting, and MathPath is a unique opportunity for students to take new classes and find new topics (based on interest) that they might not experience otherwise. We find it in the best interest of the MathPath community for MathPathers to select courses based on *interest*, rather than based on other factors. We hope that MathPathers will not select courses based on perceived “difficulty” or future “usefulness”, as all of our breakouts include interesting and valuable content.

ACTIVITIES

In the evenings, MathPath counselors and staff will announce and chaperone different indoor and outdoor activities, depending on availability. Examples of such activities include: origami, arts & crafts, chess, board/card games, table tennis, dance, pickleball, frisbee, basketball, soccer, etc. Participation in activities requires a sign-up, and students must choose one activity per free-time. Students can opt to remain in the residence hall or in their rooms for the duration of the activity period, but we encourage students to not spend all of their activity periods in this manner.

On the weekends (Sunday-Monday), we plan to offer a variety of off-campus activities to explore the local area.

On Sundays, MathPath plans to offer students a variety of different activities, which they will select usually a couple of days in advance. In some cases, a lottery system is required for popular activities. Sunday activities **will have a charge** to cover transportation, equipment, ticket, and other incidental costs. The costs of these activities will be deducted from the student's spending account (as described in section IV). The expected charge will differ based on the activity, and be relayed to students during their selection process, so they have the opportunity to make informed financial decisions. **All students will be expected to select and attend at least one activity every Sunday.**

Each Monday, we will plan to go on a full-program outing. **All transportation, ticket, and incidental costs for Monday outings will be covered by MathPath.** Any additional souvenirs or extra experiences (such as special exhibits at museums) will need to be paid for by the individual MathPath student. **All students will be expected to attend the Monday outings.**

Activities will change from week to week depending on interest and availability. To find out what activities are offered for each weekend, parents/guardians should consult with their students. Please be sure to make your MathPather is aware of any activities that parents/guardians have not allowed permission for on the *Recreational Activities Form*. We will not entertain requests from parents/guardians to assign or switch students for selected activities. However, if a student selects an activity that has been explicitly disallowed by parents/guardians in advance on our forms, the student will be automatically assigned to their next-highest choice activity with availability and that has not been disallowed.

For answers to further questions about our program, peruse the MathPath website, especially the FAQ page (accessible from the "Life at MathPath" menu) and the MathPath 2026 page (accessible from a link on the home page and from the "Apply" menu).

[Return to Contents](#)

VIII. PREPARING FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF MATHPATH

At MathPath students will be responsible for carrying out all their daily routines. They will have to do such things as

- monitor their own personal hygiene (showers, brushing teeth, dressing, clean room, etc)
- clean up after themselves (both in their own room and also in common spaces)
- follow a routine for evening and morning and get enough sleep
- choose to eat healthy and varied food from the wide selection in the buffet-style cafeteria (and not waste food)
- pay attention to verbal instructions from adults and remember the instructions
- follow a schedule and be on time and in the right place for meetings
- complete all their homework, handing in write-ups when required
- keep track of (and bring) their school supplies (including handouts) to classes
- keep their lanyard, key and swipe card on their person at all times
- communicate with their family regularly, as agreed upon ahead of time,
- pack up to go home without forgetting or damaging things, and
- **navigate daily life without constant access to electronic devices**

Many MathPathers have never had to pay attention to much of the above on their own. Students also tend to lack experience in managing their school supplies; they may not be used to carrying them around with them to different destinations throughout the day. Consider strategizing to help students cope with any new expectations before MathPath begins.

Counselors will help with some of these things. For instance, if a MathPather has not woken up by a certain time, the counselor will knock loudly on their door. But a counselor has many duties, and many different students to oversee. *At MathPath, it is each student's responsibility to take care of their self and their possessions.* Please prepare all students for this responsibility.

If your student is used to constant access to their smartphone, please consider gradually limiting their daily phone time in the 1-2 weeks leading up to MathPath. We have found with recent generations that the lack-of-access is becoming increasingly difficult for young students to manage, as some seem to have developed a strong reliance on the technology.

We also recommend selecting a handful of items from the above list and have your MathPather be responsible for those items during the two weeks prior to the start of the program. Gradually add items as your MathPather becomes comfortable. The start of MathPath requires a good deal of adjustment: meeting new people, getting used to the pace of the academics, and learning to live away from home. The adjustment will be aided by preparing every student to be responsible for themselves as much as possible before arrival.

[Return to Contents](#)

IX. SAFETY PROTOCOL

The safety of all participants is the highest priority at MathPath. The following protocols will be in effect throughout the program:

1. Access to the residential buildings occupied by MathPath students will be by swipe access cards issued only to MathPath students and staff, and to UP Personnel. Student rooms will be accessed by keys issued to the student occupant only. The key and access card will be affixed to a lanyard that students are expected to wear around their necks. Students are expected to keep their rooms locked at all times. Students are expected to wear their lanyards at all times when they are outside their own rooms, except when engaged in such physical activities where wearing a lanyard might interfere with physical safety. In these cases, a MathPath adult will designate a secure holding area for all lanyards.
2. Each student will be assigned to a counselor, who will be specifically responsible for the student's well-being. Students will be escorted from place to place by a MathPath staff member at all times. Students will never be allowed to go anywhere without a MathPath staff member present. Students are expected to follow all directions of any MathPath staff member for the safety of themselves and others. Students are expected to understand these guidelines and never attempt to go somewhere on their own.
3. It is the counselor's responsibility to check that the student is present in the residence hall every evening before the counselor group meeting, which takes place each night just before preparation for bed. Thereafter, students are expected to be in their own rooms or the bathroom. Students are expected to be in their own room with the lights turned off at the scheduled lights-out time.
4. Students will not be allowed to leave the campus unless accompanied by a MathPath staff member or an authorized adult. The only authorized adults are the parents or guardians, unless others are authorized on the *Off-Campus Permission Form*. During MathPath-sponsored off-campus activities, students will be chaperoned by at least one MathPath staff member who, in turn, is supervised and monitored by the Camp Director. During off-campus activities, students may be allowed to move about in small groups without an adult (such as in a museum). If this is the case, students will be required to stay in pre-designated groups with other students (no one should ever be alone), and students will be required to have regular check-ins with their MathPath staff member chaperone as designated by the staff member. In these cases, it will be the student's responsibility to adhere to expectations, and if any student fails to do so, they will be required to accompany a MathPath staff member for the rest of the outing.

[Return to Contents](#)

X. HEALTH AND WELL-BEING PROTOCOL

Up to date information regarding our health policies can be found on our website:

<https://www.mathpath.org/2026/health>

1. A Registered Nurse will be available during scheduled times on most days for consultation about ailments, injuries, and other health matters. A Registered Nurse or other responder will be on-call when a Registered Nurse is not present on campus to provide medical consultation when needed. In the event of any injury or medical problem, it is the student's responsibility to inform their counselor or a senior staff member immediately. The student will then be expected and reminded to visit the Nurse at the next possible opportunity. After a consultation with the Nurse, further action will be taken as indicated. Students are expected to adhere to guidelines and instructions given by the Nurse and any MathPath staff member. If a student has concerns about holding themselves accountable, they should request assistance from their counselor.

2. MathPath will have a minimum of 15 staff members with First Aid / CPR / AED certification, compliant with Red Cross requirements. Students will be made aware which staff members have approved First Aid certification to provide care when injured or ill. Only trained MathPath staff members may administer medication to students. All counselors, senior staff assistants, and senior staff will be trained in the administration of epi-pen injection.

3. Parents/guardians must include a list of **all medications** (both Over-The-Counter (OTC) and Prescription (Rx)) the student must take on the *Health Form*. Medication that staff will administer will be kept in the health station, and the student must visit the station to take the medication.

Medication that is authorized as "student will self-administer" *will not* be the responsibility of MathPath staff to ensure that students are taking properly. If students are not responsible with their medication, parents/guardians should mark that staff will administer the medication and have the medication held in the Nurse's office.

Medication **must** be kept in its original container, and MathPath students **may not share any medication** (including OTC medication) with other MathPath students. Medication that is not kept in its original container will be immediately confiscated. Sharing medication (including OTC medication) will be considered a disciplinary matter and could be grounds for dismissal from the program.

MathPath will have many common OTC medications available in the Nurse's office for those students who do not bring or list such medications on their health forms.

4. As a residential member of a close community, all MathPath students and staff have a responsibility to uphold community health standards. As such, students will be expected to participate in general hygiene to limit the spread of illness in the community (including, but not limited to, washing hands before meals, regularly using hand sanitizer, not sharing food/beverage, respecting other community members' wishes regarding interpersonal contact, etc).

A student exhibiting symptoms of a communicable disease (such symptoms include but are not limited to fever, vomiting, sore throat, eye irritation and discharge, etc) will be expected to inform a MathPath staff member, visit the MathPath health station upon first opportunity, and will be expected to remain in their room for a minimum of 24 hours. Students should remain in their room until their symptoms have abated or they have been evaluated by medical professionals who have determined that their illness is no longer contagious. Students exhibiting symptoms of an upper-respiratory ailment will be provided with masks and encouraged to use them while indoors and in close contact of others to prevent the spread of illness.

Staff will be present in the residence hall in the event that students who are remaining in their room are in need of assistance.

Covid-19 tests will be available in the infirmary/health office. Trained MathPath staff will administer any/all covid-19 tests to students. Tests may not be self-administered. Students who test positive will be expected to follow the communicable disease protocol above. If a student tests positive for covid-19, that student's parents/guardians will be informed. At this time, the parent/guardian may request that the student be taken to an urgent care or other medical facility for treatment.

5. MathPath expects students to be up-to-date (based on age) on all vaccinations recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics (<https://downloads.aap.org/AAP/PDF/AAP-Immunization-Schedule.pdf>) and the Oregon Department of Health (<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/PREVENTIONWELLNESS/VACCINES/IMMUNIZATION/GETTINGIMMUNIZED/Pages/children.aspx>) including MMR, Hepatitis B, Polio, Varicella, Tetanus (Tdap), Hepatitis A, and Meningococcus (MenACWY). Vaccination information must be included on the Health Form. MathPath *strongly recommends* vaccination for flu and covid-19, including up-to-date boosters, for all MathPath participants.

6. In the case of a serious medical problem or other emergency affecting the student, MathPath will attempt to notify parents or guardians as soon as possible, while prioritizing medical attention for the student. Once parents/guardians are notified, MathPath Staff will act on the directions and wishes from parents/guardians, unless a medical professional has already become involved. In this case, the parent/guardian may confer with the medical professional(s).

A MathPath staff member should be the first person to contact parents/guardians about a serious medical problem (requiring treatment off-campus). If a parent/guardian hears from their student

about a serious medical issue, they should assume MathPath staff does not know about it and should be immediately informed by both student and parents/guardians. If parents/guardians are concerned about a medical issue, they should first contact MathPath staff about the issue rather than their student.

7. A student diagnosed later than June 15 by their physician as having a serious or highly communicable disease (e.g., mononucleosis, meningitis, a serious flu) **will not be allowed to attend the program**. If documentation of the illness is provided, a refund of the camp fee will be issued per the Refunds/Cancellation Policy (<https://www.mathpath.org/2026/registration/refundcancellation>).

If a student develops a serious or highly communicable disease during the program, they will be immediately admitted to a nearby hospital or placed in cared-for-isolation, as merited by the case.

[Return to Contents](#)

– end –